

C A M P A I G N F O R  
**ACCOUNTABILITY**

October 5, 2017

**By Email:** [MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov)

Legal Affairs Coordinator  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services  
333 S. Grand Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request**

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.231, *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks the following:

1. Copies of all contracts entered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or its predecessor, the Michigan Department of Community Health (collectively “Departments”), pursuant to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, from January 1, 2012 through the present.
2. Copies of all reports submitted by the Departments to the Michigan House and Senate, the Appropriations Committees, the Subcommittees on Health and Human Services, the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies, and/or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services pertaining to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, from January 1, 2012 through the present.
3. Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, or other documents received by representatives of the Departments from, sent by representatives of the Departments to, or exchanged between representatives of the Departments and representatives of Real Alternatives, from January 1, 2012 through the present.
4. Copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, or other documents received by representatives of the Departments from, sent by representatives of the Departments to, or exchanged between representatives of the Departments and former State Senator John Moolenaar and/or former State Representative Matt Lori pertaining to the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.

By way of background, the Michigan Legislature has designated a portion of the Departments' budgets for a "pregnancy and parenting support services program" to "promote childbirth, alternatives to abortion, and grief counseling" for each fiscal year beginning with 2013.<sup>1</sup> The allocation has been categorized as "prenatal care outreach and service delivery support" under the "Family, Maternal, and Children's Health Services" heading.<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the appropriations bills, the Department must "establish a program with a qualified contractor that will contract with qualified service providers to provide free counseling, support, and referral services to eligible women during pregnancy through 12 months after birth."<sup>3</sup> According to press reports, Real Alternatives has been the recipient of this state grant more than once.<sup>4</sup> Senator Moolenaar and Representative Lori were credited by some as leaders of the effort to include the funding in the fiscal year 2015 budget.<sup>5</sup>

If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.243, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(5). If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.244.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.234(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within 5 business days of receipt, as required by Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(2). If possible, please email the records to me at [koconnor@campaignforaccountability.org](mailto:koconnor@campaignforaccountability.org). If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Health and

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<sup>1</sup> 2012 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 200 at 32; 2013 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 59 at 32; 2014 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 252 at 32; 2015 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 84 at 157; 2016 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 268 at 166; 2017 Mich. Pub. Acts No. 107 at 174

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Sarah Ferris, *Michigan's budget includes \$800,000 for abortion alternatives*, *The Washington Post*, June 23, 2014, available at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/06/23/michigans-budget-includes-800000-for-abortion-alternatives>.

<sup>5</sup> John Harrison, *Michigan Legislature Moves Funding from Pregnancy Prevention and Family Planning to Promoting Abortion Alternatives*, *Red Tape Blog*, June 23, 2014, available at <https://blogs.lib.msu.edu/node/228113/>; July 1, 2014: Special Update on Real Alternatives and Hobby Lobby, Michigan Catholic Conference, July 1, 2014, available at <https://www.micatholic.org/advocacy/news-room/lansing-update/2014/20140701/>.

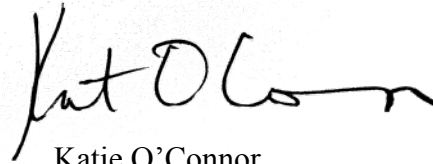
Legal Affairs Coordinator

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Human Services to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Katie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "O'Connor".

Katie O'Connor  
Legal Counsel  
Campaign for Accountability